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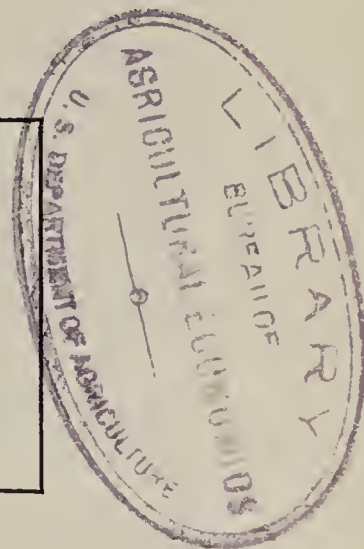
1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - NORTH CENTRAL REGION

## BETTER-BALANCED FARMING

*"As never before, the Nation has awakened to the need of stopping the exploitation of soil resources.*

*"Conservation of soil is the last line of defense against national suicide. That defense must go on."*

—Secretary HENRY A. WALLACE



A BETTER-BALANCED system of farming, which will be more profitable for the farmer and safer for the Nation, is the aim of the 1937 AAA conservation program.

Protecting the land and protecting the income of those who depend upon the land inevitably go together. Overcropping produces price-depressing surpluses, lowers fertility and exposes the land to erosion by wind and water. Through this process the soil resources of present and future generations are destroyed.

Without Nation-wide cooperation to secure better-balanced farming, many farmers may be compelled by the force of competition to sell the productive resources of their land and disregard their own and the Nation's long-time interest because of need for immediate cash return. The results in the long run would be higher costs of production, higher prices to consumers, and a lower standard of living for farmers.

Destruction of soil by erosion and loss of fertility through overcropping have made millions of acres of the Nation's agricultural land unsuitable for farming. Types of development which hastened waste of soil were encouraged in the period of pioneering and by abnormal wartime demand. Waste of soil has been so extensive that conservation of soil resources has become a national problem. The need now is to preserve the productivity of the land upon which the Nation must depend for the bulk of its food and fiber. These are the reasons why the AAA conservation program operates through a system of payments enabling farmers to conserve soil on the individual farms of the country, and why the Federal Government makes funds available for this purpose.

The AAA conservation program seeks better balance between crops which conserve the soil and crops which deplete the soil. It seeks more widespread use of farming practices which maintain and restore productivity. The methods provided in the program for attaining



these objectives are based on the experience of farmers and the recommendations which they developed for 1937 in community meetings throughout the North Central Region.

These methods are outlined in this leaflet for farmers of the North Central Region which includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Carrying out the program is contingent upon appropriation by Congress of the amount authorized, which is \$500,000,000.

### MEASURING CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENT

In order to determine each participating farmer's part in the program and the amount which may be earned by him, soil-depleting bases and soil-conserving bases will be established for each farm. In establishing the bases, consideration is given to the production system on the farm and sound farming practice for the area in which the farm is located. Payments are provided (1) for diverting some of the acres in the soil-depleting base from soil-depleting to soil-conserving uses, and (2) for approved soil-building practices.

The soil-depleting base will be established by the county committee on the basis of information obtained from the farmer and from other sources. The soil-conserving base will be determined by subtracting the number of acres in the soil-depleting base from the total number of acres of cropland on the farm, exclusive of orchards.

On farms on which cotton or tobacco is grown, separate soil-depleting bases will be established for these crops and special rates of payment made for diversion from cotton and tobacco.

On farms in areas where corn for grain is a major crop, corn acreage limits will be established and will be included in the soil-depleting base. In these areas production of corn causes the greatest loss of soil fertility. Production of corn exposes the soil to erosion by wind and water and depletes soil fertility. Corn is never used as a nurse crop for legumes or other soil-conserving crops. The corn acreage limit for a farm will conform to good farming practice for the area in which the farm is located and, on the average, will be slightly less than the 1936 planted acreage of corn.

### CLASSIFICATION OF LAND

In order to have a basis upon which to compare 1937 farming operations with the soil-depleting and soil-conserving bases established for the farm, farm land will be classified according to its use.

In general, land will be classified as soil-depleting when used for the production of cultivated row crops and small grains, or when

left idle. Soil-conserving uses will include good stands of legumes and grasses on land from which no soil-depleting crop is harvested in 1937.

Because of the widespread destruction by drought, both of established stands and new seedings of soil-conserving crops in 1936, the 1937 program provides for the substitution of emergency pasture and forage crops, such as soy-





beans and Sudan grass, on acreage that would normally be devoted to more permanent seedings of legumes and grasses.

### DIVERSION PAYMENTS

On farms which have a soil-depleting base of 20 acres or more, the principal payment will be made for diverting from soil-depleting to soil-conserving uses some of the land in the soil-depleting base. On farms which have a soil-depleting base of less than 20 acres and for which no cotton or tobacco soil-depleting base is established, payments will be made for such practices as seeding legumes and grasses, liming, and tree planting.

The maximum number of acres on which a farmer may qualify for diversion payments is 15 percent of his soil-depleting base. The rate of the diversion payment will depend upon the productivity of the land. It will vary according to variations from the average productivity for all farms in the United States. The diversion payment will be divided into two parts, one of which is called the \$6 payment, and the other the \$3 payment.

An average of \$6 will be paid for decreasing acreage of soil-depleting crops and an average of \$3 per acre will be paid for matching the decrease with soil-conserving crops.

On farms for which a corn acreage limit is established, the rate of both the \$6 and the \$3 payments will be increased 5 percent.

### SOIL-BUILDING PAYMENTS

The total amount of soil-building payments for which a farmer may qualify will be limited by the soil-building allowance for his farm.

On farms not eligible for diversion payments (for which the soil-depleting base is less than 20 acres and for which no cotton or tobacco soil-depleting base is established) the allowance will be established at the rate of approximately 88 cents per acre for each acre of cropland.

On farms eligible for diversion payments (for which the soil-depleting base is 20 acres or more, or for which a cotton or tobacco base is established) the allowance will be established at the rate of \$1 per acre for each acre in the soil-conserving base and each acre for which the \$6 payment is made.

On dry-land farms, where it is difficult to obtain stands of soil-conserving crops, the allowance will be computed by multiplying by \$4, adjusted for productivity, the number of acres diverted, and adding \$1 for each acre in soil-conserving crops.

Additions to the allowance will be made at the rate of \$1 per acre of commercial vegetable crops, \$2 per acre for double-cropped vegetableland, and \$1.88 per acre of commercial orchard.

There will be provision for an addition to the allowance based on the carrying capacity, in excess of 5 animal units, of noncrop plowable pasture.





The manner in which a farmer may earn his soil-building allowance will include such practices as the seeding of soil-conserving crops, liming, terracing, planting forest trees, and fallowing in designated areas.

Following are examples of methods of arriving at possible payments on three different types of farms:

*Example I*—160-ACRE FARM ELIGIBLE FOR DIVERSION PAYMENTS—PRODUCTIVITY  
100 PERCENT

140 acres cropland.	85 acres soil-depleting crops in 1937.
<u>100</u> acres soil-depleting base.	55 acres soil-conserving crops in 1937.
40 acres soil-conserving base.	
Diversion payments—	
\$6 payment—	
\$6×15 (100—85=15 acres, maximum diversion)_____	\$90
\$3 payment—	
\$3×15 (number diverted acres)_____	45
Total diversion payments_____	135
Soil-building allowance which may be earned by approved practices—	
40+15×\$1 (soil-conserving base plus \$6 diverted acres)_____	55
Total which may be earned on farm_____	190

*Example II*—160-ACRE FARM ELIGIBLE FOR DIVERSION PAYMENTS—PRODUCTIVITY  
100 PERCENT

140 acres cropland.	51 acres soil-depleting crops in 1937.
<u>60</u> acres soil-depleting base.	89 acres soil-conserving crops in 1937.
80 acres soil-conserving base.	
Diversion payments—	
\$6 payment—	
\$6×9 (60—51=9 acres, maximum diversion)_____	\$54
\$3 payment—	
\$3×9 (number \$6 acres diverted)_____	27
Total diversion payments_____	81
Soil-building allowance which may be earned by approved practices—	
80+9×\$1 (soil-conserving base plus \$6 diverted acres)_____	89
Total which may be earned on farm_____	170

*Example III*—40-ACRE FARM INELIGIBLE FOR DIVERSION PAYMENTS—PRODUCTIVITY  
100 PERCENT

35 acres cropland.	
12 acres soil-depleting base.	
Soil-building allowance—	
35×88 cents (acres cropland times allowance for farms with less than 20-acre soil-depleting base equals amount which may be earned by approved practices)—	
Total which may be earned on farm_____	\$30.80

### LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the program in the counties will be under the supervision of farmers who are officers of the county agricultural conservation associations. Officers will be selected by farmers residing in the county. Farmers who participate in the program will make up the membership of the county association.

### PROGRAM FOR ALL FARMS

Through the 1937 agricultural conservation program, all farmers, regardless of the size of their farms or the amount of their production, will have opportunity to participate in a Nation-wide effort toward better-balanced farming. Through this program, the Government is offering to share with farmers the expense involved in conserving their own and the Nation's soil resources.